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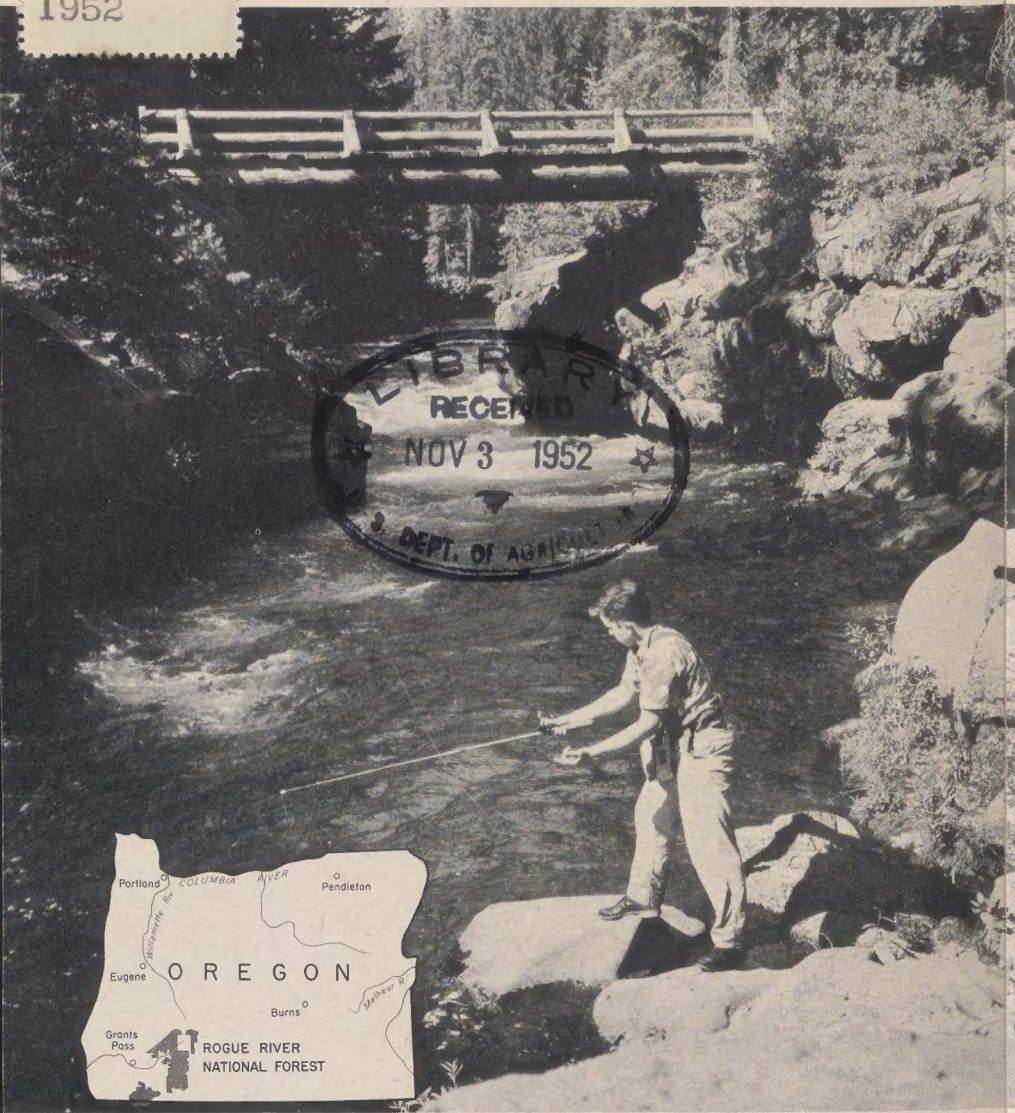




# ROGUE RIVER

NATIONAL FOREST

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1952



FOREST SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Pacific Northwest Region September 1952

## Rest and Recreation

Each year thousands of people come to the Rogue River National Forest for pleasure. Camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, hiking, and skiing are some of the activities enjoyed by the visitors.

The river for which the forest is named is world-famous for steel-head and salmon fishing. Other forest streams yield rainbow, cut-throat, and eastern brook trout. Hunters take to the woods each fall in search of bear, black-tailed and mule deer, and elk. Grouse, quail, ducks, and geese are also found on the forest. Because State fish and game laws apply on national forest land, the sportsman should obtain his license and study the laws relating to seasons and bag limit before going afield.

Forty improved camp grounds on the forest are available for use. Each has tables, stoves or fireplaces, a water supply, and sanitation facilities, and is located at a point with scenic or other recreational advantages.

## Forest Highways

Five State highways cross or adjoin the Rogue River National Forest: No. 62, Crater Lake; No. 66, Green Springs; No. 227, Tiller Trail; No. 230, Union Creek; No. 232, Sand Creek; and No. 238, Applegate. These highways are the primary transportation system of the forest, but in addition there are many forest roads and trails. The construction of this highway system has been, for the most part, a cooperative project between the Federal Government, and the State. An important Forest Service policy is to not cut timber along highways, in order to preserve the natural beauty of these scenic routes.

## Lake of the Woods

One of the most popular recreation areas on the forest is Lake of the Woods, situated 5,000 feet above sea level in the heart of the Cascades. Here are some of the most attractive forest camps in southern Oregon. The lake contains both rainbow trout and bass, and boats can be rented at reasonable rates by the angler. Swimming is a favorite pastime at Lake of the Woods, where gently sloping banks and gravelly beaches lend themselves to this sport. Hiking opportunities are numerous.

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## The Peoples' Forest

EARLY IN THE history of what is now the State of Oregon, French fur trappers encountered especially troublesome Indians in the valley of a great river. These lusty Frenchmen were quick to call that great river "La Riviere Aux Coquins"—the Rogue River. Later, when public lands surrounding the river were placed under Forest Service management, the resulting unit was named the Rogue River National Forest.

This forest, totaling a little more than a million acres, is one of 151 national forests in the United States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico created by Congress because the importance of water, timber, forage, wildlife, and recreation to the Nation's welfare was recognized. Thus, large areas of the people's land—yours and mine—are under protective management.

One of 19 national forests in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, the Rogue River is located in two divisions at the extreme southern end of the Cascade Range in Oregon. One division includes the northern slopes of the Siskiyou Mountains and the drainage of the Applegate River in Jackson and Josephine Counties in Oregon and a small part of Siskiyou County in California. The other and larger division of the forest lies along both sides of the Cascade Range summit from the Green Springs highway on the south to Diamond Lake on the north and includes parts of Douglas, Klamath, and Jackson Counties.

## Lifeblood of the Land

The importance of an adequate supply of pure water, a major resource of national forests, is becoming more and more apparent with the increasingly numerous reports of lowered water tables and diminishing usable supply. It is evident that as the population grows, the demand for water grows with it.

Among many other values, water is essential for irrigation, domestic and industrial use, and production of power. Without it, great fruit-producing valleys such as those surrounding Medford and Ashland would not be possible. Without water, city and country dwellers alike could not wash their clothing, cook their food, or quench their thirst. Without water, great mills and factories could not process their products, and power plants could not generate electricity to light homes and industrial plants.

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Where the land is covered with vegetation, rain and water from melting snow have a chance to soak into the earth instead of washing off in uncontrolled freshets. This is accomplished partly by the restraining action of the vegetation and partly by the porous condition of the humus-covered land. This cover action is even more effective in the forest where the trees first break the fall of the rain and snow, and where the cover is often a spongy mulch of decayed wood and leaves. Even the soil beneath is porous and the root systems of the trees help to lead the water deep into the earth. It is from such earth-held waters that our subterranean water table is formed.

When this process is interrupted through destruction of the vegetation by fire, forest insects or disease, or misuse of the land, the results are an uneven flow of water laden with sediment, and at times floods. Maintenance of vegetative cover is, therefore, of utmost importance, and it is given primary consideration in every activity on the forest.

## Timber—A Forest Product

Timber is a valuable product of the Rogue River forest. Logs trucked to sawmills in Medford, Klamath Falls, Ashland, and other communities are purchased from the government through a system of competitive bidding. The successful bidder is required to cut the trees and remove the logs in such a way as to do the least possible damage to the land and insure that a new crop of trees will succeed the old one.

More than 9 billion board feet of timber is on the forest, according to best estimates. This would furnish enough lumber to build 900,000 five-room houses if it were cut. However, it would not be good forestry to strip the forest and leave nothing for the future. We must use our forests wisely so that they will furnish wood products, pure water, forage, wildlife, and recreation not just for today but for all time. In harvesting national forest timber, forest officers strive to maintain watershed, recreational, and other values.

Fifty percent of the total timber stand on the Rogue River forest is Douglas-fir. The remainder consists of sugar pine, western white pine, ponderosa pine, Shasta red fir, and other species. Of the money collected through sale of timber and special-use permits, and through grazing fees, 25 percent is returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located, to be used for

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A young mule deer doe. Most of America's big game spend a part or all of its time on the national forests. State game laws regulate hunting on national forest land.

schools and roads. In addition, 10 percent of forest receipts is given to the Forest Service for forest roads.

## Forage

Because this forest lies almost entirely west of the Cascade range, it does not rank among the top forage-producing forests in Oregon. However, the grasses, palatable weeds, and shrubs that do grow on the forest are of vital importance to southern Oregon stockmen. During the summer months ranchers graze their cattle and sheep, under permit, in high mountain areas on the forest. Thus it is possible for them to save their own range lands for use in early summer and late fall. Without national forest range to supplement their own, many ranchers would have to reduce their herds drastically or perhaps go out of business.

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cabins, and a service station are located at Union Creek close to the district ranger station.

Other popular recreation areas are found at Dead Indian Soda Springs, Fish Lake, and Rocky Point on the west side of Klamath Lake.

Tourist accommodations at Dead Indian Soda Springs include a store, public camp ground, and tourist cabins. One-half mile away by trail is the largest of the mineral springs, for which the area is named. The water of the spring contains soda, iron, and other minerals.

Fish Lake, located on the Lake of the Woods-Butte Falls Road, 6 miles west of the Lake O'Woods, is one of the best rainbow trout lakes of the region. Boats and tourist cabins are available, and groceries and gasoline can be obtained at the resort store. Two improved forest camps are located on the lake shore.

Good rainbow trout fishing may be found at Rocky Point Resort. Tourist accommodations include boats, cabins, and a store that carries a supply of groceries, gas, and fishing tackle.

The Mountain Lakes Wild Area has many small but attractive fishing lakes among which are Coyote, Hemlock, Echo, Como, Harriette, South Pass, Paragon, Avalanche, and Storm. A similar wilderness-type country extends north along the Cascade Crest from Fourmile Lake to the Crater Lake National Park boundary. Here access is gained by the use of the Sky Line Trail along which are numerous scenic as well as good fishing lakes such as Island, Heavenly Twins, Marguerette, and the seven lakes of Seven Lakes Basin. In these areas it is possible to really "get away from it all"—to leave automobiles, trains, and other symbols of our restless civilization far behind.

## Care with Fire

If our forests are to continue producing wood, water, wildlife, and all other products we need, they must be protected from their enemies. One of the worst enemies of timberlands is fire, not only because it lays waste large areas of valuable timber each year, but also because it damages the watersheds that are so vital for human survival, and destroys the young trees that are the homes of tomorrow. Fortunately, you and every other forest visitor can do much to keep your forests green.

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How can the casual picnicker or camper help defeat fire? Easy. He can be alert to report all uncontrolled fires to the nearest forest officer or telephone operator and—more important—he can be careful with fire in the woods. No one can deny that a properly extinguished campfire or a carefully crushed cigarette is a much better fire-fighting device than a thousand men with axes and shovels. If you want to help protect the forests, you'll follow these few simple, but important, rules:

1. Crush out your cigarette, your cigar, your pipe ashes.
2. Be sure your match is out—dead out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
3. Drown your campfire; then stir and drown it again.
4. If you must use fire: First, ask if the law requires a permit.

Next, have help handy. Last, kill every spark. Forest visitors are also asked to leave a clean and sanitary camp; papers and refuse should be burned in a safe place. Refuse that won't burn should be placed in garbage receptacles provided at camp grounds, or buried away from camp. Every effort should be made to avoid polluting streams; do not clean fish or wash clothing in creeks or lakes.

## Administration

This forest is administered by the Supervisor and his staff from headquarters in Medford. To make easier the task of managing this large area, the forest is divided into five units, each under the yearlong direction of a District Ranger and his assistant. Other professional foresters assist with timber-sale operations on the forest. In addition, many persons are employed during the busy summer months to guard against fire, clear trails, maintain roads, and help with other work that is essential in good forest management. District Ranger stations are located at Ashland, Butte Falls, Klamath Falls, Union Creek, and Star, on the Applegate River.

You are always welcome in the Rogue River National Forest. Have a pleasant time and return soon. Forest officers will be glad to answer your questions or help you in any other way possible. If you seek information or don't understand the reason for a regulation, ask the Ranger—it's his job and his pleasure.

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A mature stand of ponderosa pine. These trees are harvested selectively; that is, the old, deformed, or diseased trees are cut first, leaving the young, healthy trees plenty of room in which to grow. While the second crop is growing to maturity, a third crop is coming up beneath it. This method of timber harvesting brings about a balanced condition in the forest—a condition where growth equals loss from cutting, fire, insects, and disease. This is known as sustained yield.

Typical stand of timber—mostly Douglas-fir—found on the Union Creek-Prospect flat west of the Crater Lake Highway. In harvesting Douglas-fir timber, all the trees are cut from patches 10 to 40 acres in size. The new crop that results from seed trees surrounding the patches, or from planting, will be harvested in future years. By keeping growth balanced with cutting, fire, insect, and diseases losses, we will have a perpetual supply of timber.



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Lookout tower on Mount Stella. The man in this tower needs your help in preventing outbreaks of fire. Please be careful with fire in the woods.

Timber from the Rogue River National Forest on its way to the mill. Many southern Oregon communities rely heavily on forest-industry payrolls.

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Lower end of the Ashland city reservoir. Ashland is one of many cities in the Pacific Northwest depending entirely on the national forests for its domestic water supply. Dam at right of picture is 103 feet high.



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Vast timber resources of the Rogue River National Forest as seen from the Mount Stella lookout station. Timber—a primary product of the forest—plays an important role in local, State, and national economies.

Young apple orchard near Ashland. Water from the Rogue River National Forest is used for irrigation of many valuable crops in the valleys surrounding Medford and Ashland.



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Cattle grazing in the high country of the Applegate ranger district.







Members of a local 4-H Club swim and play in the Applegate River at McKee Bridge forest camp ground. Recreation is recognized as one of the important uses of the national forests. Each year thousands of visitors seek the pleasure and relaxation offered.



One of the large sugar pine trees found on the forest. More than 200 feet tall and almost 8 feet in diameter, this forest giant contains enough lumber to build 3 five-room houses. The tree is located along the Crater Lake Highway, 6 miles south of the Union Creek ranger station.



Fishing from a private dock at Lake of the Woods. Mount McLoughlin looms in the background. A popular fishing and camping area, Lake of the Woods is also noted for its many fine summer homes built on sites leased from the Forest Service.